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QUESTIONS FOR THE UNDERSTANDING OF NATIONAL UNITY

Question - What is the national unity?

Answer - Just after the 25th of April, 1974 the creation of various political organizations revealed the lack of unity on the part of East Timor sons. The UDT wanted a Federation with Portugal and Apodeti wanted the integration with Indonesia. UDT modified this objective later on, seeking to uphold the right of independence of East Timor people. The coalition UDT-FRETILIN showed the necessity of consolidating the unity of objectives, yet UDT broke this coalition up. In August 1975, UDT made a coup which led the Maubere people to civil war. It was not FRETILIN who promoted the civil war, but UDT. Not only did they create this situation but UDT leaders went further and made an alliance with Indonesia, settling for the integration; the two small groups KOTA and LABOUR who joined UDT at th time of the coup followed the same steps. Right from the beginning FRETILIN defended the right of East Timor people to self-determination and independence. FRETILIN continues to fight for this right of the Maubere people, for more than eight years. FRETILIN has never hesitated in this hard fight of the Resistence, even in the particularly difficult years of 1978 and 1981. In spite of all difficulties FRETILIN follows with enthusiasm and dedication the various signs of support which took place in the towns temporarily occupied by the aggression forces. From "Bupat" to "Camat", from "Pagawai" to "Tentara", from nationalists to ex-members of Apodeti, from Catholics to the followers of Islam, from Protestants to gentiles, from "DPR" to "hansip", fram "raja" to the population, from the students to the "polisi", many people are becoming aware of this situation of war, many people are becoming aware of this war of resistance carried out by FRETILIN is just, and that only the Resistance can put an end to the brutalities committed by the occupying forces, can put an end to the atrocities, exiles, massacres, prossecutions, arrests, disappearences and torture and the many and frequent restrictions which lead the East Timor people to the situation of a butchered animal. It is to this feeling that we are a people opressed, violated and being exterminated by the Indonesian forces, it is to this anger and refusal against the presence of the occupation forces, that FRETILIN want to join their efforts in the armed struggle. It is this nationalist feeling, now spread in many minds and hearts that FRETILIN want to UNITE in a great NATIONAL FRONT! FRETILIN presents to all those who really love their LAND two ways to choose from: one, joining FRETILIN which is a Liberation Movement comprising nationalist without descrimination of colour, sex, age,

political tendency, faith or social position; the other, by establishing a common platform of National Independance with the other nationalist movements. FRETILIN knows that there is (...) a faction of UDT who do not accept integration and FRETILIN knows that there are people who do not want to integrate themselves into a political movement or party; the important thing, however, is that they are all driven by the same commun feeling, the nationalist feeling. It is this generalized feeling of denial of the presence by the foreign invader, revealed by the various political factions in our country that UNITE us! This is the profound meaning of NATIONAL UNITY defined by FRETILIN.

Question - Why does FRETILIN appeal for national unity while pursuing armed resistence?

Answer - FRETILIN appeals for NATIONAL UNITY because FRETILIN does not wish to call upon themselves the exclusive right to represent the East Timor people. We have mentioned before that FRETILIN is a broad movement comprising nationalists of various political tendencies, but there are many who disagree and do not want to join FRETILIN. This is why FRETILIN wants to create conditions for the other groups to participate in a compatible way in the Resistance against the foreign occupant. Only by joinning efforts in this way will we defeat the powerful enemy. The enemy is powerful and for eight years has carried out a war of extermination of the Maubere people. Yet, for eight years, the enemy has also been unable to put an end to the Armed Front conducted by FRETILIN. If other Fronts of Resistance were to join this effort, in the political and diplomatic fields, we would reach an overall capacity to defeat the powerful enemy. In this way FRETILIN appeals for NATIONAL UNITY because only this UNITY of all sons of East Timor, organized in the various Nationalist Movements will ensure political force capable of facing the gerat Indonesia at all levels, only one great political Fighting Front can expel the criminal foreign occupant from our mother-land.

(...)

Question - What does the political solution envisaged by FRETILIN consist of?

Answer - In the thirty sixth General Assembly Meeting the United Nations adopted a resolution backed by Portugal and other five African brother countries, recognizing Portugal as the Administration power and appealing for Portugal and Indonesia to start efforts and contacts aiming at the solution of the question of East Timor and giving to the General Secretary of the U.N. one year term to present a report on this process. In the last Assembly the U.N. extend for a further the term of the General Secretary postponing the discussion of the matter to the September session. In the framework of the U.N. the proposals by FRETILIN meet the Resolution adopted in 1982. The basis of the proposals by FRETILIN is the dialogue between

Indonesia, Portugal and representatives of East Timor under the supervision of the U.N. to discuss the problems pertaining to the matter of East Timor and taking in consideration its geopolitical position. Only a political position which will end the war can lead the parties to bilateral or multilateral agreements which will safeguard the interests of the area and the superior interests of the East Timor people. FRETILIN knows that a nationalist and anti-integration faction of UDT also pursue the struggle for independance of East Timor. FRETILIN defends the point of view that only the East Timor people can choose their destiny and that so far, throught the U.N. the East Timor people have not exercised this fundamental right of the Peoples - the right of eslf-determination and independance.

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Question - What does FRETILIN propose in the political field?

Answer - FRETILIN proposes a NATIONAL UNITY on a National Independance platform of all movements or political parties and representatives of various political tendencies. FRETILIN proposes the formation of a transition government to lead to the first general elections and the constitution of a multyparty parliament. FRETILIN wants to guarantee freedom of expression, creed and association. FRETILIN opposes strongly the imposition of governments by force and will seek to contribute for a better understanding among the various political forces conducting the destiny of the Nation, for this purpose we will ensure, as a rule, the process of free and democratic elections as a guarantee of self-determination and National Independance of East Timor.

Question - Is it not a sign of weakness the change of FRETILIN's position searching for other solutions besides armed struggle?

Answer - FRETILIN delcares to be political, military, morally and psicologically prepared to resist to a prolongued war. The results of the great offensive of Benny Moerdani to exterminate the guerilla prove clearly that FRETILIN can continue the war. Yet, FRETILIN knows that neither Indonesia nor the Maubere people will gain from a long-term war, so FRETILIN indicates, as a correct solution a political settlement respecting the interests of Indonesia, the region and the Maubere people, to whom the fundamental rigth of self-determination and National Independance cannot be denied.